

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL (GRADES K-8)**

PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- I. An administrator certificate, valid for a period of four (4) years from the effective date on the certificate, will be issued to applicants meeting the following requirements:
 - A. One (1) of the following:
 1. A permanent or professional Missouri certificate of license to teach;
 - OR**
 1. A baccalaureate degree from a state-approved teacher preparation program;
 2. A recommendation from the designated certification official from a state-approved teacher preparation program which is included on the Application for Initial Missouri Teaching Certificate; and
 3. Achieve a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score on the assessment designated by the State Board of Education for initial certification;
 - B. A minimum of two (2) years teaching experience approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;
 - C. Successful completion of the building-level administrator's assessment designated by the State Board of Education;
 - D. Completion of a course in Psychology and Education of the Exceptional Child;
 - E. Completion of a master's degree in educational leadership from a college/university meeting approval of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;
 - F. Recommendation for certification from the designated official of a college/university approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This recommendation shall be based upon the completion of a planned program for preparation of elementary principals which includes at least twenty-four (24) semester hours of approved graduate credit in education courses focused upon administration and supervision of the elementary school. The approved graduate credit shall include:
 1. Specific courses (must be separate graduate courses of at least two (2) semester hours):
 - a. Foundation of educational administration;
 - b. Elementary administration;
 - c. Elementary curriculum; and
 - d. School supervision;
 2. Directed field experiences in elementary administration of at least two (2) semester hours; and
 3. Knowledge and/or competency in each of the following areas:
 - a. Instructional management systems;
 - b. School law;
 - c. Teaching/learning processes;
 - d. Public relations;
 - e. Educational measurements;
 - f. Student discipline;
 - g. School business and facilities management;
 - h. Evaluation of teachers;
 - i. Administration and coordination of school activities programs;
 - j. Instruction in communication skills (reading, writing, spelling, listening, and speaking); and

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- k. Administration and coordination of special programs and services

NOTE: DESE will not evaluate transcripts for administrative certificates.

II. CAREER CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE – ADMINISTRATOR

- A. The principal's Career Continuous Professional Certificate – Administrator classification will be issued upon completion and verification of the following:
 - 1. Four (4) years of state-approved administrator experience;
 - 2. Participation in two years of district-provided mentoring (during the first two years of administrator experience);
 - a) Mentors must complete training addressing cognitive coaching skills and Interstate Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) standards. Training may be provided by the Missouri Mentoring Partnership that includes professional associations, regional professional development centers, colleges/universities and DESE.
 - 3. The development, implementation and completion of a professional development plan of at least 120 contact hours of professional development based on ISLLC standards, or eight (8) semester hours of graduate credit toward an advanced degree in educational leadership, reading/literacy or curriculum/instruction, or a combination of credits/professional development;
 - a) Professional development should focus a minimum of: thirty (30) contact hours on leadership training (vision building, communication, data-driven decisions, ethics, etc.), and eighteen (18) contact hours on comprehension and supervision of teaching of reading, and other items identified in the individual's professional development plan; and
 - 4. Successful participation in an annual performance-based principal's evaluation that meets or exceeds the Missouri Performance Based Principal's Evaluation.
- B. The career continuous administrator certificate shall be continuous based upon verification by the employing school district that the certificate holder:
 - 1. Participated in a performance-based principal evaluation; and
 - 2. Completed requirements of an educational specialist degree or higher in educational leadership, reading/literacy or curriculum/instruction within six (6) years.
- C. The career continuous administrator certificate holder is exempt from the thirty (30) contact hours of annual professional development if the holder has a local professional development plan in place with the school and meets at least two (2) of the following:
 - 1. Ten (10) years of state-approved administrator experience;
 - 2. An educational specialist or higher degree in educational leadership, curriculum and instruction, or reading/literacy; and/or
 - 3. Certification from a board-approved nationally recognized professional administrator organization.